

Tennis Champion Is Eliminated in Semi-final Round of National Tournament, but Still Retains His Title

WILLIAMS VICTIM OF BIG TENNIS UPSET

Champion Loses to Niles by One Set to Three in National Singles.

MATCH MARRED BY RAIN

Titular Form Impossible Under Conditions—Boston Man Proves Steadier.

Only by grace of the war is Lieut. Richard Norris Williams 2d still the national lawn tennis champion. If it had not been for the fact that the big drive on the Boches forced the abandonment of tennis competition this summer, Williams would have lost his championship in the semi-final round of the national singles at Forest Hills yesterday afternoon. Much to the surprise of everybody Williams was defeated by Nathaniel W. Niles of Boston, three sets to one. The score was 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

In spite of his defeat Lieut. Williams will hold the championship for another year, since the tournament is without trial value, being played under conditions which make it impossible for the champion to be ousted. The championship has been at stake the contest never would have been completed under conditions which would have proved a disadvantage to the victor.

It had been intended to play the other semi-final between Robert Lindley Murray and John R. Strachan at Forest Hills yesterday afternoon. But because of the rain, the match was postponed until this afternoon. The programme to-day calls for Murray to meet Strachan at 3:30 P. M. One hour earlier, William R. Brown and Ed Molla Bjurman will meet in an exhibition. To-morrow afternoon Niles will meet the winner of to-day in the final.

Should Not Have Played.

Williams and Niles played their match in a steady rain, varied from a drizzle to a heavy downpour. Although the rain was not so heavy as the conditions and the match developed into a travesty. The officials were severely criticized for permitting the players to continue to play in such conditions. Not only his mechanical effectiveness suffered, but the rain put a damper on his enthusiasm. He did not appear to care whether school kept or not.

It was raining when the players took the court and the drizzle increased to a downpour early in the match. Williams was not in the mood to play, and after a delay of more than thirty minutes before play could be continued. A second court was used in the final set. The rain was not so heavy as the conditions and the match developed into a travesty.

It was apparent from the start that the weather conditions handicapped Williams. Playing with such a narrow margin of safety over the net and about the net, Williams was unable to get the heavy balls to respond to his whiplike strokes and piled up errors like a novice. Niles, too, was handicapped by the rain, which made his eyes heavy. He frequently had to wipe away the water between games.

Niles far the steadier. The two, however, playing with precision and care to Williams' backhand and taking advantage of the latter's errors. Williams was not in the mood to play, and after a delay of more than thirty minutes before play could be continued. A second court was used in the final set.

The winner was always steady, being willing to wait for his opponent's opening. He won through pluck and the slow and uncertain footing aided him in this feature of the game. Both players repeatedly slipped and floundered on the wet turf at critical moments. Niles made a rather suspicious start, for on his service he won the first game without allowing the champion a point. But he soon showed that he was not to be taken for granted.

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Champion Outgeneralled. By the time they entered on the fourth game the court was slippery, the rain was heavy and a damp uncertainty hung in the air. Williams' backhand shot, which was his chief weapon, was not so accurate as in his previous games. He was not in the mood to play, and after a delay of more than thirty minutes before play could be continued. A second court was used in the final set.

Williams came to life in the second set, but only after Niles had taken the first two games with ease. The third and fourth games went to Williams, and the set was all square. The fifth and sixth sets were won by the champion. Williams' backhand shot, which was his chief weapon, was not so accurate as in his previous games. He was not in the mood to play, and after a delay of more than thirty minutes before play could be continued. A second court was used in the final set.

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Figures Showing How Champion Was Beaten

Nathaniel W. Niles vs. Richard Norris Williams 2d.

First Set.

Second Set.

Third Set.

Fourth Set.

Summary.

Summary.

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HOT PITCHERS' DUEL HAILED BY SHOWER

Schupp and Vaughn Go Five Innings to Scoreless Draw at the Polo Grounds.

By FRANKLIN G. LIEB.

What promised to be the keenest pitchers' battle on the Polo Grounds this season was washed out yesterday after five innings of well nigh perfect baseball. It didn't seem well for the sportswriters of the weather man that he stopped a game like that, with Ferd Schupp and Big Jim Vaughn, star twirlers of the Giants and Cubs respectively, duelling away as though the honor of the nation were at stake.

The score was 0-0 at the end of the fifth inning, when a heavy downpour forced the teams to "ump" for run for cover. The two teams just barely got in a legal game.

The rain stopped after about twenty minutes, but at the end of the customary five-minute delay, the umpire, tipped gingerly over the diamond as though he were walking on eggs in his bare feet with a hundred dollar fine on his head, he officially inspected a puddle near the pitcher's box and took soundings in a rivulet around second base. Righter came to the conclusion that the water was not so deep as he feared, and he waved the game on.

This gave him the lead at 1-2 on games. The great Boston player continued to crowd court his opponent and to make remarkable shots along the sides, so that he held command to the end to win the set and the match.

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New York A. C. to Aid "Sun" Tobacco Fund

The New York Athletic Club again will come to the aid of Our Boys in the trenches to-morrow afternoon. At its Soldiers' and Sailors' Day at Traversers' stadium, the club will give a program and turn the entire receipts over to the Sun's Tobacco Fund.

The programme arranged will furnish some stirring contests. All the prominent athletes who have joined the fund are expected to appear. The fund is made up of ex-champions and men who won their spurs in athletic competitions.

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CALDWELL FAILS TO STOP YANKS' SLIDE

Klepper Outpitches New York Entry and Leads Cleveland to Victory, 4 to 2.

Special Dispatch to The Sun.

CLEVELAND, Aug. 23.—The Yankees shifted their offensive to the Buckeye front this afternoon, but again were repulsed by heavy loss. After they had been beaten by Cleveland by 4 to 2, the opinion was freely expressed that the only prize the New York Americans could now hope for was the \$500 for being the best drilled soldiers in the American League.

Ray Caldwell was on the firing line for the attacking party and his aim was true, but Klepper, who did the bomb throwing for the defenders, was a bit more accurate.

Cleveland won the game because it bunched hits in two different innings, the first and the fifth, while the Yankees were unable to register more than two hits together.

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FLOTSAM AND JETSAM FROM WORLD OF AMATEUR SPORT

By DANIEL.

practically straightaway, and this time was recorded by two watches.

Orders were issued yesterday from Washington suspending all athletic activities at the Naval Academy until after the war. Orders already had been received making mandatory the cancellation of the football schedule, but the new mandate also forced the abandonment of fencing, swimming, basketball and other competitions usually featured at Annapolis during the winter.

A correspondent who signs himself "C. B." queries, "Which sport requires more brain, football or baseball?" Evidently "C. B." is no friend of ours, for his query invites us into a peck of trouble. In our opinion football requires a far greater use of the brain than does baseball.

Baseball is a more or less mechanical process. A certain line of action is laid out for the fielder and the batter in advance. Of course there are many opportunities for the quick thinker and the heady player. In football the man with the ball is left pretty much to his own resources. In addition, he must make his own action dovetail with the actions of his teammates. Quick thinking is a greater essential than on the diamond.